

# Frye Lights

*A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilmember Donna Frye*



February 2005

Volume III, Issue 1



*Proudly Serving  
the District Six  
Communities of:*

*Bay Ho*

*Bay Park*

*Birdland*

*Clairemont*

*De Anza*

*Kearny Mesa*

*Linda Vista*

*Mission Valley*

*Mission Village*

*Morena*

*Serra Mesa*

*Stonecrest*

## *A Message From the Desk of Councilmember Donna Frye*

Happy New Year! For my message this issue, I am including an essay by **Howard Zinn** titled "**The Optimism of Uncertainty**." His words express hope and goodwill, and put in perspective those things which are really important...

*In this awful world where the efforts of caring people often pale in comparison to what is done by those who have power, how do I manage to stay involved and seemingly happy?*

*I am totally confident not that the world will get better, but that we should not give up the game before all the cards have been played. The metaphor is deliberate; life is a gamble. Not to play is to foreclose any chance of winning. To play, to act, is to create at least a possibility of changing the world.*

*There is a tendency to think that what we see in the present moment will continue. We forget how often we have been astonished by the sudden crumbling of institutions, by extraordinary*

*Continued on page 2*

## *Councilmember Frye Heads New Committee on Government Openness*

Councilmember Frye has been appointed chairperson of the new City Council **Government Efficiency and Openness Committee** (GE&O). The new committee, formed at Councilmember Frye's behest, will work to ensure government transparency and that the city consistently follows the proper procedures when dealing with public-information issues.

"It is absolutely essential that we as a city are always working our hardest to ensure that the public has access to any and all documents and information that we as

*Continued on page 3*



It was all smiles recently when community members, city staff and sports enthusiasts joined Councilmember Frye at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly improved East Clairemont Senior Athletic Fields. Councilmember Frye continues to work hard on the revitalization of city parks and open space, particularly in her district.

## *Ideas Sought for New Frye Lights*

*Frye Lights*, Councilmember Frye's neighborhood newsletter, is undergoing a redesign, and we'd like to hear from you. If you have any ideas how to make it better or what you'd like to read about, please call 619-236-6616 or send an email to [jlamb@sandiego.gov](mailto:jlamb@sandiego.gov).

## *Inside This Issue*

<i>Frye Chairs New Open Gov't Committee</i>	1
<i>"State of Clairemont" Address Highlights</i>	3
<i>SurfAid International = Tsunami Relief</i>	3
<i>Clairemont Clean-Up Coming Soon</i>	3



## *A Message From the Desk of Councilmember Donna Frye Continued*

changes in people's thoughts, by unexpected eruptions of rebellion against tyrannies, by the quick collapse of systems of power that seemed invincible.

What leaps out from the history of the past 100 years is its utter unpredictability. A revolution to overthrow the czar of Russia, in that most sluggish of semi-feudal empires, not only startled the most advanced imperial powers but took Lenin himself by surprise and sent him rushing by train to Petrograd. Who would have predicted the bizarre shifts of World War II — the Nazi-Soviet pact (those embarrassing photos of von Ribbentrop and Molotov shaking hands), and the German Army rolling through Russia, apparently invincible, causing colossal casualties, being turned back at the gates of Leningrad, on the western edge of Moscow, in the streets of Stalin-grad, followed by the defeat of the German army, with Hitler huddled in his Berlin bunker, waiting to die?

And then the postwar world, taking a shape no one could have drawn in advance: The Chinese Communist revolution, the tumultuous and violent Cultural Revolution, and then another turnabout, with post-Mao China renouncing its most fervently held ideas and institutions, making overtures to the West, cuddling up to capitalist enterprise, perplexing everyone.

No one foresaw the disintegration of the old Western empires happening so quickly after the war, or the odd array of societies that would be created in the newly independent nations, from the benign village socialism of Nyerere's Tanzania to the madness of Idi Amin's adjacent Uganda. Spain became an astonishment. I recall a veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade telling me that he could not imagine Spanish Fascism being overthrown without another bloody war. But after Franco was gone, a parliamentary democracy came into being, open to Socialists, Communists, anarchists, everyone.

The end of World War II left two superpowers with their respective spheres of influence and control, vying for military and political power. Yet they were unable to control events, even in those parts of the world considered to be their respective spheres of influence. The failure of the Soviet Union to have its way in Afghanistan, its decision to withdraw after almost a decade of ugly intervention, was the most striking evidence that even the possession of thermonuclear weapons does not guarantee domination over a determined population. The United States has faced the same reality. It waged a full-scale war in Indochina, conducting the most brutal bombardment of a tiny peninsula in world history, and yet was forced to withdraw. In the headlines every day we see other instances of the failure of the presumably powerful

over the presumably powerless, as in Brazil, where a grassroots movement of workers and the poor elected a new president pledged to fight destructive corporate power.

Looking at this catalogue of huge surprises, it's clear that the struggle for justice should never be abandoned because of the apparent overwhelming power of those who have the guns and the money and who seem invincible in their determination to hold on to it. That apparent power has, again and again, proved vulnerable to human qualities less measurable than bombs and dollars: moral fervor, determination, unity, organization, sacrifice, wit, ingenuity, courage, patience — whether by blacks in Alabama and South Africa, peasants in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Vietnam, or workers and intellectuals in Poland, Hungary and the Soviet Union itself. No cold calculation of the balance of power need deter people who are persuaded that their cause is just.

I have tried hard to match my friends in their pessimism about the world (is it just my friends?), but I keep encountering people who, in spite of all the evidence of terrible things happening everywhere, give me hope. Especially young people, in whom the future rests. Wherever I go, I find such people. And beyond the handful of activists there seem to be hundreds, thousands, more who are open to unorthodox ideas. But they tend not to know of one another's existence, and so, while they persist, they do so with the desperate patience of Sisyphus endlessly pushing that boulder up the mountain. I try to tell each group that it is not alone, and that the very people who are disheartened by the absence of a national movement are themselves proof of the potential for such a movement.

Revolutionary change does not come as one cataclysmic moment (beware of such moments!) but as an endless succession of surprises, moving zigzag toward a more decent society. We don't have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world. Even when we don't "win," there is fun and fulfillment in the fact that we have been involved, with other good people, in something worthwhile. We need hope.

An optimist isn't necessarily a blithe, slightly sappy whistler in the dark of our time. To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will deter-

*Continued on page 3*



## *Councilmember Frye Delivers "State of Claremont" Address*

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, Councilmember Frye delivered her annual "State of Claremont" address to the Claremont Town Council. 2004 was an exciting year for Donna to say the least, and her lengthy and impressive list of accomplishments in the community reflected it.

She highlighted many of her community priorities, such as Park and Recreation projects, the Balboa Avenue beautification work, community clean-ups, traffic-calming measures, utility undergrounding, repair of damaged sidewalks, tree plantings and much more. Although she ran as a write-in candidate in last year's mayoral race, Donna's dedication and close attention to her community's needs remained the top priority.

Also at the meeting, Councilmember Frye had the pleasure of swearing in the 2005 Claremont Town Council Board. The new members are: **Ryan Huckabone**, secretary; **Crystal Trull**, treasurer; **Dale Smith**, director South; and **Jim Miller**, **Sheri Mongeau** and **Delores Offerman**, directors at-large.

Councilmember Frye also gave special Council commendations to the outgoing CTC Board Members who donated their time and hard work to improving the quality of life for all Claremont residents. We would like to recognize you here and again thank you for your commitment to public service in Claremont:

**Michael O'Brien**  
**Dot Jensen**  
**Wilbur Smith**  
**Alan Van Loy**  
**Pete Stipp**

We look forward to working with the old and new members as we embark on a challenging yet exciting new year!

## *Claremont Clean-Up Coming in March*

Yes, it's that time again. Don't be afraid to confront that intimidating, ever-growing pile of junk in the garage — and haul it off!

On March 19, 2005, we will be sponsoring another clean-up for the residents of Claremont. Although the exact details of the clean-up are yet to be solidified, look in our March issue of *Frye Lights* for more information about locations and instructions on what will be accepted. We look forward to hauling away a lot of stuff, so start planning now!

## *A Message From the Desk of Councilmember Donna Frye Continued*

*mine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places — and there are so many — where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory.*

## *Government Openness Committee Continued*

elected officials use to form the basis for decisions and votes that we make," Frye said.

The first meeting of the Government Efficiency and Openness Committee was scheduled to take place on January 31 at 9 a.m. in the Council Committee Room on the 12th floor at City Hall.

Other members of the GE&O committee include District Three Councilmember Toni Atkins and District Five Councilmember Brian Maienschein.

"The culture of secrecy in this city must be broken, and the formation of this committee is an enormous step forward towards seeing that happen," Frye added.

## *SurfAid International Brings Wave of Expertise to Tsunami Relief, Seeks Donors*

If you're having trouble deciding how best to help out the victims of the recent devastating tsunami, look no farther than Encinitas-based **SurfAid International**.

A non-profit that has helped stem the spread of malaria in Indonesia, SurfAid has been approached by several large international aid organizations to assist because of its years of experience operating malaria-control programs in the villages of West Sumatra.

The doctors of SurfAid — which grew out of the surfing community — speak the languages, and many of the staff are indigenous. Most importantly, these workers are culturally sensitive and aware and have access to the many boats used in the surf-charter industry in Sumatra to get to the remote islands where help is scarce.

If you would like to help SurfAid, check out the website [SurfAidInternational.org](http://SurfAidInternational.org) for more information.



Councilmember Donna Frye  
City Administration Building  
202 C Street, MS 10A  
San Diego, CA 92101

*Frye Lights: A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilmember Donna Frye*



*The District Six Staff:*

*Steven Hadley  
Chief of Staff*

*Nicole Capretz  
Senior Policy Advisor*

*Lisa Gonzalez  
Senior Policy Analyst*

*John Lamb  
Council Representative*

*Kevin Smith  
Council Representative*

*Mary Ann Kempczenski  
Council Representative*

*Lee Chiles Mayes  
Scheduler/ Office Manager*



*Contact  
Councilmember Donna Frye*

Phone: (619) 236-6616

Facsimile: (619) 236-7329

Address:

202 "C" Street, M.S. 10A  
San Diego, CA 92101

E-Mail: [DonnaFrye@sandiego.gov](mailto:DonnaFrye@sandiego.gov)

Web Site: [www.sandiego.gov/cd6](http://www.sandiego.gov/cd6)